



# News Release

#02-028

Contact: [Mark Fawver](#)  
Public Affairs Officer  
Caltrans - (530) 225-3260

California Department of Transportation  
District 2, Redding  
Brian F. Crane, District Director

May 12, 2003

Highway Info - 1-800-427-7623  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Caltrans to Improve Interstate 5 Message Signs**

Redding – In response to Governor Davis' order to improve the Child Abduction Regional Emergency (CARE) Alert system along with the Federal government's emphasis on the Amber Alert program, the California Department of Transportation has prepared projects for a statewide upgrade to the current highway informational message systems. When the CARE alerts are activated, the identifying information is posted to many of the overhead changeable message signs (CMS) on California's Interstate freeways and major highways allowing motorists to see descriptions of missing children and become involved by watching California's roadways for the subject vehicles.

The present inventory of CMS are subject to premature burnout of many of the light bulbs encased within the panels. The incandescent bulbs burn at a very high temperature and during extreme weather conditions the wind and rain hitting these hot bulbs tend to break. Many of the recent messages have been incomplete or misinterpreted due to the missing light bulbs. Contracts have been prepared, design changes have been made and projects are ready to start to replace existing light panels with a xenon bulb panel matrix module, a lower wattage, cooler bulb that will not be as likely to break during inclement weather.

Interstate 5 signs in Tehama County at the northbound truck scales and the southbound Bowman Road Overcrossing will be changed. In Shasta County, a northbound sign at Smith Road Overcrossing and the Pine Grove Overcrossing are included. In Siskiyou County, signs at Ream Avenue OC and Abrams Lake Road OC, near Mt. Shasta, and the Walters Road OC at Yreka will be changed out.

Work will be completed Monday through Friday without any delays to motorists.

**“SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE”**

###